



Arkansas River Advisory Committee

Meeting Highlights from October 26, 2005

Place: 8th Floor, City Hall 455 N. Main, South Conference Room

Next Meeting Scheduled: January 25, 2006

In attendance:

Libby Albers, Department of Environmental Services
Tonya Bronlewee, EARTH
Bob Martz, City Council
Marsha Carr, Riverside Citizen's Association
Tom Kneil, Arkansas River Coalition
Irene Hart, Sedgwick County
Betty Pitts, Riverside Citizen
Kathy Dittmer, Riverside Citizen's Association
Claire Willenburg
Jack Brown, KU School of Medicine
Ben Rogers, Wichita Audubon Society
Janet Wright, Wichita Festivals

Agenda Item 1: Introductions

Welcome Ben Rogers from the Wichita Audubon Society

Agenda Item 2: River Clean-Up Wrap-Up

- The clean up was a cooperative effort between the City of Wichita, Sierra Club, and the Wichita Area Paddlers. Approximately 20 volunteers met at Exploration Place at 9 a.m. to walk and boat the river.
- Public Works provided a packer truck, two operators, 200 gloves and 400 trash bags
- Posters were distributed to Gander Mountain, Exploration Place, etc.
- There was a slide on Channel 7 announcing the clean-up
- The clean up announcement as also been posted on the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club's webpage as well as Wichita Area Paddlers (www.wichitapaddler.com).
- The clean-up was announced on the front page of the Local & State section of the Wichita Eagle. The Eagle also sent out a photographer, and photos of the event appeared in Sunday, October 23rd's edition.
- 90 bags of trash were collected totaling 1.18 tons.
- Related Clean-ups: the Arkansas River Coalition performed a clean-up on October 15th and the Riverside Neighborhood Association held a neighborhood clean-up on October 22nd.

Agenda Item 3: Holiday Meeting Schedule

- The November and December meetings fall within days of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. It was decided and approved by Council Member Martz to postpone future meetings until January 25, 2006.

Agenda Item 4: General Discussion

Letter of Support for the continuation of a river pathway: Claire proposed that the Committee support the proposed Little Arkansas River paved scenic pathway extension project. The Riverside community is seeking a grant from KDOT to fund the extension. A letter will be faxed to Claire to include in their grant proposal. The pathway will:

- Increase access and visibility
- Provide a safe point of travel across 13th street for North High and John Marshall students
- Allow additional clean-up access

Exploration Place Display: The Arkansas River Coalition is concerned with the 1400 miles and the entire Arkansas River watershed. Tom Kneil proposed the idea of an interactive exhibit to Explorations Place (EP). Since that time, EP has had some financial difficulties. The exhibit's cost would, at a minimum, be \$100K.

Web Page: The webpage has been moved to the Environmental Services page:
<http://wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/> A page on the Arkansas River Advisory Committee has also been added to the Arkansas River Water Quality Campaign page.
<http://wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/River/Committee/>

LABAC: Tom Swan will report to the group on the information discussed at the LABAC meetings. The LABAC has received an update on the proposed boating access plan. The next LABAC meeting will be held in March 2006.

Next River Trash Round Up: May 6, 2006. The Sierra Club plans to do advertising before the event and combine the clean up with a float trip. They will also do a literature drop to the houses and businesses along the river one week prior to the event. Sierra Club will work with the City to get the to neighborhood associations, high school groups, boy scouts, and others.

Adjourn